

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This responds to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2007 in the present application. The Office Action has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above claim amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 17, 20 22, 27 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Nelson¹. Claims 3, 6-8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Nelson in view of Lazzarotto². Claims 5, 13, 21 and 32 were found allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth in Applicant's Response to Office Action mailed July 16, 2007. However, to expedite prosecution of the application, independent claims 1, 11, 19 and 27 were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute one or more continuation application directed to the subject matter of original independent claims 1, 11, 19 and 27. Accordingly, application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,404,393

² U.S. Patent No. 6,782,245

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Krebs", written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Krebs
Reg. No. 25,885

Dated: December 26, 2007

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